

Agricola 'gringos' are touched by poverty in Mexico

"Mire, un gringo!" a small boy said as he peeped through the barred window of his two-room home.

Translated, that means, "Look, a white man!"

In the neighborhood where our mission Vacation Bible School team was working, white people were a scarce sight.

The 12-member team from Agricola Baptist Church — our pastor Ron Burch, Donnie and Elizabeth Evans, Kathy and Tim Mason, Tara Vise, Eddie Simmons, Tracey Dean, Mark Partin, Gloria Parden and I, all of Agricola, and my sister Angela Jenkins of Petal — joined forces with two churches in Texas — Orangefield Baptist and Cove Baptist churches — for a week of mission activities on the Texas-Mexico border.

Streets were dirt and often impassable after a good rain. Children would navigate the sodden streets on their way to the "Mision Bautista."

Some would make detours, others would arrive at the mission with mud from their knees to their bare feet.

But they all responded to our smiles and kind touch, and most giggled at our broken Spanish.

"Los titeres" (the puppets) garnered everyone's attention — children and adults.

The love of music is international, and words in Spanish carried our message through the puppets to the children.

Things that our children would take for granted these children treasured — like name tags and Izod shirts.

The missionaries — 62 in total — worked at seven different locations hosted by Primera Iglesia Bautista de San Juan, near McAllen, Texas.

Harvest and Lopesville Baptist churches were two other points of mission work on the Texas side of the border.

In Mexico, the team worked out of Arco Iris, Bonita Juarez, Lopes-Por-

to and Rio Brava mission churches.

Work focused on four major geographic areas from the base churches. Vacation Bible Schools were maintained at each church or mission throughout the week.

When the final figures had been tallied, the team saw 159 professions of Christian faith.

Average attendance for the Vacation Bible Schools was 498. But since many children and adults could attend only one or two days, workers estimated that over 1,000 were reached by the ministry. Total attendance for the week was 2,492. And the Mission Bautista de Bonita Juarez gained high attendance with 193 enrolled.

A construction crew worked at the San Juan and Lopesville churches.

Clothing collected by the mission team churches was distributed to children in need.

A ministries team including three pastors visited each church during

VBS and shared in evangelistic outreach.

How excessive and unnecessary most of our possessions seem in comparison to the Mexican barrios. How precious and wonderful are things that we always take for granted — fresh clean water, varieties of food, indoor plumbing.

How do you respond with

graciousness and without guilt to a hard-working mother who innocently asks, "Do people go hungry in Mississippi?"

(Reprinted from Hattiesburg-American.)

Tom Jenkins is minister of music and activities at Agricola Baptist Church, Agricola.

MISION BAUTISTA
ASAEL
(OBRA DE DIOS)



Pictured are three of the young people to whom Agricola Baptists ministered on the Mexico-Texas border.

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, September 14, 1989

Published Since 1877

Pastor adopts nine miracle children

By Scott Collins

MINERAL WELLS, Texas (BP) — children. Two 4-month-old babies also live with them.

But Kalli is not the only miracle child in the Rhodes' home. Phillip lives there, too. Like Kalli, Phillip was the victim of abuse. When he was 5 months old, his parents locked him in a closet and argued about whose turn it was to feed the baby.

And while the Rhodeses have seen miraculous changes in the children, perhaps the greatest transformation is their own lives.

When Phillip was almost dead, they took him to a hospital. Starvation killed 55 percent of his brain, and he was nearly blind. He weighed only 4 lbs. 8 oz., one pound less than when he was born.

Today Phillip brings home good conduct certificates from school. Altogether, Jim and Margie Rhodes have adopted nine miracle children and have three of their own biological

Seeing them today in the old boarding house they bought by paying back taxes, it is hard to imagine that nine years ago they were making \$150,000 a year, owned two houses, an airplane, and a cabin cruiser.

The change came in a Baptist church in Oklahoma which Rhodes joined because he thought it would be good for business. But he realized he was playing games with God and later

made a genuine profession of faith in Christ.

A year later, he applied to attend Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. But they faced the obstacle of selling their veterinarian laboratory and other possessions. "Margie made two phone calls in one day and sold everything," he said. "It was a miracle."

While at Southwestern, doctors found cancer in Mrs. Rhodes. Surgery prevented them from having more children. It was a blow, for she had dreamed of having 10.

Down but not defeated, the Rhodeses adopted a baby with cerebral palsy. The girl, Robin, had been beaten, and doctors said she was retarded and would never walk.

"They tell us that nothing can be done medically for these children," Mrs. Rhodes said. "We tell them that we know a great physician."

Five years later, Robin is a bright-eyed girl making A's and B's in school.

The two-story house in Mineral Wells, Texas is another miracle, Jim said.

It is also a testimony to the family's hard work. When they bought it last year, the house was being used by drunks and was full of sickening odors. It was falling apart. Today it has 10 bedrooms, a new kitchen, and a large family room.

Slowly, Rhodes is working his way through the house, fixing rooms as money allows and using his skills as a carpenter to build what he needs. He gets supplies where he can because the family depends on help from churches and individuals. "I look at it this way," he said. "If God wants it to be here, then God's going to take care of it."

They named their home New Haven because "to a child, his home is a haven, a retreat," Rhodes said. "If

something goes wrong and the child has to leave, he has to find a new haven, and that's what we are — a place of refuge for the ones that nobody else wants."

A soft-spoken man, Rhodes is pastor of the Baptist church in Whitt, just outside Mineral Wells. The church has grown steadily since he became pastor.

He also credits people in the church for helping the couple continue with the children: "You can't have these children without having that love of your congregation. My people love the children. They love to love and to help. They have grown so greatly in loving others and in ministry."

Although the Rhodeses have a house full, they still cry "because there are so many that we feel like we could help if we could only feed them."

While they provide what they can for their children, they believe the greatest provision they make is love.

Love is so thick at New Haven at times it seems to hover like a cloud over every room. The Rhodeses attribute the progress of the children to love.

All they want, he said, is for each child to be all God intended for him or her to be. If the child walks and talks and leads a "normal" life, they believe that is God's will. If not, then that is God's will too.

"Love disarms people," he said, pointing to 5-year-old Sarah, a girl with Down's syndrome who is a "hugger."

"We look at her and say, 'This is what the world says is abnormal,'" he said. "But by my Bible, this is what God says is normal — that you love everyone unconditionally, without regard to age or sex, ugliness or anything else."

Scott Collins writes for Southwestern Seminary.



Jim and Margie Rhodes with seven of their 14 children.

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Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Pray for volunteers

In October 124 Mississippians will go to Japan to follow the leadership of the Lord in spreading the gospel. Japan has one of the smallest Christian communities in the world, and witnessing will not be easy. Those who are going will need and will be depending on the help of every Mississippi Baptist who stays behind.

Those who go will need and will be dependent on the prayers of those who stay.

It will be a long and arduous trip. The volunteers who will be going will need the Lord's help in maintaining strength for the task. They will also need the Lord's direction as they seek to find ways of witnessing.

It will not be a pleasure trip. There is not that much to interest the visitor as far as sightseeing is concerned. Japan is a nation of wall-to-wall people. Only about a million of the 122 million are Christians. They need the Lord. Baptists number about 27,000.

But it is a nation in which the Christian witness is limited. It is not limited by government edict but by the hearts of the people.

Japan is a very successful nation. The Japanese have taken American

ideas and improved upon them and have taken raw materials from all over the world and made first-rate products at reasonable prices. And it has made their nation wealthy.

When that is the case, the inhabitants feel that they have everything they need.

Mississippi Baptists ran into the same sort of mindset in Uruguay during the partnership arrangement with that nation in the early Eighties. The government furnished everything, and the people felt they had no needs, not even religion.

And so it is in Japan, only in this case it is not the government making the provisions. The people have done it themselves.

So witnessing and proclaiming will not be easy. Those who go will need help.

But the Lord is working in Asia. Just a short distance across the Sea of Japan is South Korea, one of the most Christianized nations in the world. It could very well be that the Lord is sending Mississippi Baptists to Japan to be the vanguard of the beginning of such an experience in that island nation.

Missionaries in Japan have done a

masterful job. They returned to the nation following the second World War to work with people who had been defeated by United States Military might. They have gradually carved out a beachhead in the sea of unbelief there. There is a strong convention that is staffed by Japanese people.

It was the Japanese Baptist convention that invited Mississippi Baptists to go to their country in this partnership campaign of witnessing and revival services. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of Baptist work in Japan. It began in Fukuoka, and there will be Mississippi Baptists going there to witness and to preach. Fukuoka is also the site of the Japanese Baptist universities for men and for women.

So 124 Mississippians are going. They will go in two waves into 44 areas of Japan.

This could make a tremendous impact on that nation and will if Mississippians will lay the matter before the Lord with faith. Those who go will be depending on that.

Though they don't know it yet, hopefully many thousands of Japanese people will be depending on that also.



Guest opinion . . .

Feed the hungry

By Paul Jones

One out of every seven Americans is engulfed by poverty. At least one in five persons worldwide is unable to secure the food necessary to sustain life. The great majority of the undernourished are women, children, and the aged. In the past few years more people have died of hunger than were killed in all the wars, revolutions, and murders during the past 100 years.

However, the conscience of our nation has not been moved. In 1988 the people of the United States lost more money at the gambling tables of Nevada than we gave in all the development assistance programs. Each year, producers of alcoholic beverages use more than five million tons of grain to manufacture beer, ale, and liquor. the same amount of grain could feed over 25 million persons for a year in nations such as India or Bangladesh. Annually, the United States claims two-thirds of the world's tuna catch and one-third of that excellent supply of protein is used to produce cat food.

The biblical mandate

The biblical mandate to the church is a command to compassion, commitment, and co-laboring. "There will always be some who are poor and in need, and so I command you to be generous to them" (Deut. 12:20). "Share your food with the hungry . . ." (Is. 58:7). "I was hungry and you fed me" (Matt. 25:4). "If your enemy hunger, feed him" (Rom. 12:20). These scriptures and dozens more set forth clearly God's

concern for the hungry of the world. The Bible speaks pointedly and forcefully.

The church's response

Southern Baptists have in place agencies which can quickly and without administrative costs channel hunger and poverty gifts to places of greatest need. The Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board are the channeling agencies. In 1988, gifts to all hunger causes through the churches amounted to less than 75 cents per member. At the same time, it is estimated that over \$18 billion dollars is necessary to meet the minimal needs of the hungry of the world.

The second Sunday of each October has been designated as World Hunger Day on the Southern Baptist and Mississippi Baptist Convention calendars. The third Sunday of October on the Mississippi Baptist calendar is Poverty Awareness Day and the week between the two is set aside as World Hunger/Poverty Awareness Week on the Mississippi Baptist Convention calendar. These three combined emphases provide opportunity to call attention to the plight of God's hungry children around the world. The theme of these emphases is "Behold, Lord . . . I Give to the Poor."

Proclamation

The pulpit remains the prophetic voice of the church. The pastor can address the biblical mandate to feed a hungry world and should be affirmed as he leads the church in the ap-

propriate Christian response. The church can have special services and programs to inform, challenge and instruct.

Education

The typical Baptist is not aware of the severity of the hunger problem. Reliable, credible information is the first step to a renewed awareness. The Christian Action Commission has produced a new resource, "Ten Myths About Poverty," which is designed to correct the most frequently heard myths regarding the poor and hungry and is available to churches and their organizations which request it.

Participation

Plan to observe World Hunger Day, Poverty Awareness Day, and/or World Hunger/Poverty Awareness Week in your church. In this way, our churches can join together with Southern Baptists around the world who have a burden for the people in a hungry world. A special offering for world hunger should be a part of any emphasis or program.

The Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention can assist any church, WMU, or other organization in planning and implementing a World Hunger Day . . . Week . . . Month. The Christian Action Commission is a ministry of the Cooperative Program and can be contacted at Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or (601) 968-3800.

Paul Jones is executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

In view of the fact that churches are involved in budget preparations, questions have begun to reach this office regarding subscription prices for next year. To answer the questions — there will be no subscription rate increase for next year.

As the Baptist Record's budget for 1990 was being formulated in January of this year, it seemed that a subscription rate increase would be needed, and one was built into the budget picture. We try to be frugal, however, and finances for 1989 improved to the extent that the Baptist Record Advisory Committee recommended that we delay the decision to establish any rate increase.

In 1982 the Convention Board established a \$67,000 escrow for the Baptist Record that was the result of money not being spent from the paper's budget. The reason that it was not spent was that the federal government raised postage rates dramatically early in 1982 and then lowered them in October of the same year. The Baptist Record struggled for eight months until September and then raised subscription rates, not knowing that the government was going to lower postage rates in October. The result was the \$67,000 left in the budget, which the Convention Board

placed in escrow as a hedge against a future need to raise subscription rates.

The budget committee for 1990 wiped out that escrow account and placed it against the Baptist Record's budget for next year. Therefore, there will be no subscription rate increase for next year.

No doubt there will be a postage rate increase next year. The budget committee has assured the Baptist Record, however, that its need will be taken care of.

When postage rates went down in October of 1982, the Baptist Record Advisory Committee felt that to raise and lower subscription rates as postage rates fluctuated would be confusing, so we decided to leave them as they were. As a result, during a five-year span from 1983 through 1987, the Baptist Record placed about \$600,000 back into the fund balance of the Convention Board rather than it's also being used as a subscription rate hedge. Since there is a Cooperative Program subsidy for the paper, it was decided that the unspent funds were Cooperative Program funds rather than subscriber's money. Therefore, the money went back into the fund balance.

All of that was said to say that there will be no subscription rate increase for 1990 and to explain the circumstances for the past several years, for they have involved subscribers' funds also.

Of course, it must be noted also that when the budget for 1991 is structured, the \$67,000 escrow will not be there. The Baptist Record's expenses, however, will not have decreased. So what will be a 25 percent decrease in the Cooperative Program portion of the paper's budget for 1990 will be at least a like increase for the Cooperative Program portion for 1991.

The Cooperative Program furnishes about 25 percent of the paper's \$1 million budget each year.

Chinese Christians reported arrested

HONG KONG (EP) — News Network International reported that house church leaders know of "scores" of Chinese believers in at least five provinces, and particularly in Jiangsu Province, who have been penalized with fines, arrests, and the confiscation of radios for listening to the "Voice of Friendship," Far East Broadcasting Company's call sign in China.

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Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.
Send news, communications, and address changes to The Editor, Baptist Record
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 113 (ISSN-0005-5778)

NUMBER 31

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

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MissionsFest

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, September 14, 1989

Published Since 1877

Awakening has begun, say SBC prayer leaders

By Mark Wingfield & Terri Lackey

ATLANTA (BP) — America is on the "front end" of a major spiritual awakening that could heal a divided Southern Baptist Convention and bring an apathetic Christian community to its knees, prayer leaders from two SBC agencies said.

Henry Blackaby of the Home Mission Board and T.W. Hunt of the Sunday School Board reported that their experiences this summer lead them to believe the long-awaited spiritual awakening has begun.

"The corner is turned, and God is moving like we've never seen," Blackaby said. "By this time next year, we could see one of the greatest movements of God."

"Every person I know who has been praying for spiritual awakening has said for the first time that awakening has begun. There is a profound moving of God."

Blackaby said he has seen more of the activity of God in the past year than in all the 32 years of his ministry. He is director of prayer and spiritual awakening for the Home Mission Board.

Both Blackaby and Hunt said they believe the awakening is a sign that the Southern Baptist Convention will not be dismantled by its 10-year-old denominational controversy.

"God has given us a clear word at this point that he is not through with Southern Baptists. There is something very significant that he wants to do," Blackaby said. "He's given evidence that he's in the process of bringing it about. If God is through with a people, history records that you'll see no evidence of his working among them."

Hunt, prayer consultant with the Sunday School Board, said he believes "God wants to bring awakening to the world through the Southern Baptist

Convention" despite the current controversy.

Blackaby and Hunt cited several incidents from summer speaking engagements as evidence of the impending awakening. The two men, along with Avery Willis of the Sunday School Board, Douglas Beggs of the Brotherhood Commission, and Minette Drumwright of the Foreign Mission Board, spent several weeks together in July and August teaching prayer seminars at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

At each of these events, the prayer leaders said, they encountered individuals who had experienced similar spiritual transformations at different times and in different places. The testimonies of those individuals became catalysts to spark renewal among others, they said.

"The Lord is changing lives right and left," Hunt said. "People, many of them pastors, go to these prayer conferences and come away different persons."

After Blackaby had spoken to one Ridgecrest group about spiritual awakening, the pastor of a small Virginia church came to talk with him.

Blackaby explained to him again that the Holy Spirit can guide believers to understand God's truths and apply the truths to life.

As he traveled home, inspired by the week's events, the pastor prayed for God to provide 13 decisions the next Sunday. Although the church averages only 30 in attendance, there were 43 decisions recorded that day.

The church was so moved by the pastor's changed heart that they sent him back to Ridgecrest for a second

week of training, Blackaby said.

The next week, during the discipleship training conference at Ridgecrest, an "awesome sense of the holiness of God" fell upon the crowd, Blackaby said. "We felt the power of God and immediately fell on our knees and began to pray."

Hunt recalled Tuesday, July 18, as a significant date in the embryonic stage of the spiritual awakening movement.

"During a prayer training conference, there was a solemn and serious visit of the Holy Spirit," Hunt said. "It was accompanied by a profound confession of sin and the acknowledgement of the holiness of God."

Several of about 50 participants "were so overwhelmed by the presence of God that they could not even stand," he said. "They just sank to their knees. Many couldn't even go to the next meal because they were so profoundly gripped by the dread of the holiness of God."

Throughout the week, people gathered spontaneously for prayer and confession of sin, Blackaby said. He reported that one pastor entered the prayer garden, wearing a light-colored suit, was struck by the presence of God and fell to his knees in the mud, crying, "Oh, God, who can stand in your presence?"

Similar incidents occurred during the Jericho conference at Glorieta, during the HMB's national mass evangelism conference in Nashville, and during two sessions of training state prayer coordinators, Blackaby and Hunt said.

Southern Baptists can hear similar reports from the prayer leaders on a live BTN National Prayer Corps Teleconference Sept. 17, 3-5 p.m., Central time.

Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks gives a charge to furloughing missionaries at the Jackson city auditorium during the closing "re-commissioning" service of MissionsFest, a weekend festival which told how Southern Baptists carry out

the Great Commission overseas in 116 countries. The program featured 40 missionaries plus FMB staffers and Parks all of whom told how God is working today in the world. (Story to come next week.) Tim Nicholas photo

37 Mississippians contribute input at National Convention

By Jim Newton

RIDGECREST, N.C. — With input from 37 Mississippians, participants in the National Convocation on the Baptist Association declared that associations face a bright future as they become full partners in missions.

The Mississippians were among 1,137 participants in the six-day meeting of associational directors of missions, state convention leaders, and national program leaders at the Baptist Conference Center here.

Maurice Flowers, director of missions for Jones County Association in Laurel, was a member of the steering committee which planned and coordinated the convocation, sponsored by the associational missions division of the SBC Home Mission Board.

Flowers said one of the most significant things to come out of the convocation was the apparent acceptance of associational directors of missions as "full partners" on the denomination's missions team. "In the past, the associational director of missions were considered 'messenger boys.'

Now, the state conventions and SBC agencies are opening doors for associational leaders to participate in joint strategy planning. "If we are full partners, we need to respond."

Ervin Brown, director of missions for Northwest Baptist Association in Hernando, agreed. Brown said he attended the first convocation at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly in 1963, when the role of the associational superintendent of missions (as they were called then) was to be a "funnel" for national and state programs to be channeled into the churches.

J. W. Brister, director of missions for Hinds-Madison Association, said he felt after this year's convocation that the Home Mission Board and other SBC agencies are "listening to us" and taking their suggestions seriously. "I feel we are moving toward becoming a team. It is not us versus them; now it is all of us together."

Flowers, Watson, and Brister agreed they see a new breed of associational director of missions emerging. This new breed of associational worker is younger, better trained, and more oriented toward leading the association in planning missions

strategy, they said.

Pointing to changes they had seen since attending the first convocation at Gulfshore in 1963, Flowers, Watson and Brister said the associational director of missions is now required to be a missions strategist and long-range planner.

Brister said this is causing frustration among some associational directors, who find it extremely difficult to balance the time between administration and being a pastor to the other pastors in the association. "Sometimes I find myself caught in the middle between these two roles, making me feel frayed at the edges," Brister said.

... Home Mission Board is launching Town and Country Thrust ...

Mississippi associational directors of missions were pleased with the announcement at the Ridgecrest convocation that the Home Mission Board is launching a new program called "Town and Country Thrust" to help associations in non-metropolitan areas with strategy planning.

Brister said he would return to Jackson from the meeting to lead Hinds-Madison association in a strategy planning retreat the very next week. Hinds-Madison will be using the materials developed by the Home Mission Board called "Metro Thrust" which is similar to the "Town and Country" process used for associations in rural and small town areas.

Terry Robertson of Buffalo, N.Y., a member of the convocation steering committee, said the meeting was purposely planned to allow input from Mississippi Baptists in consultation with directors of missions from across the nation.

"I think it's significant that we came together for a meeting with no definite agenda," he said, explaining that Mississippi directors of missions were encouraged to present their ideas in response groups that met each day.

Jim Newton writes for the HMB.

FMB trustees affirm selection process, plan more scrutiny

By Marty Croll

ROCKVILLE, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees in their August meeting cleared the way for requiring the agency's staff to scrutinize prospective missionaries' beliefs more closely.

Also during their three-day meeting near Richmond, Va., trustees revived the possibility Greg and Katrina Pennington eventually could be appointed as foreign missionaries; divided \$2.4 million of the 1988 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds among four regions of the world and allocated \$3.8 million to be used strategically as global priorities dictate; and appointed 24 new missionaries.

After consideration, trustees voted to accept a joint trustee-staff study committee's proposal, which emphasizes more trustee control over the staff-implemented process of missionary selection. But they stopped short of deciding to have trustees routinely interview missionary candidates about their theological beliefs.

The tougher line on issues of theology emerged despite board President R. Keith Parks' statement that the board appoints only Bible-believing, evangelism-oriented missionary candidates. "I can show you from many candidates the emphasis on proper biblical teaching, on proper evangelism," Parks told the trustees. "I am committed to the Bible. The missionaries we appoint are, too."

The committee proposal came after members spent more than a year studying the entire missionary appointment process. Among other things, the proposal encourages a sub-

committee of trustees to review the process annually and present findings to the trustees' mission management and personnel committee. The committee will direct staff to routinely ask specific questions and revise application materials of missionary candidates as needed, "with immediate attention to the Statement of Christian Beliefs," according to the new policy.

The recommendations also state that the subcommittee reviewing missionary applications may, under extraordinary circumstances, ask the candidate to come to Richmond for a personal interview with the committee, an option that has existed all along but of which some trustees said they were unaware. And the proposal mandates that as part of their orientation, all new trustees should receive an explanation of such options available to them if they have questions about a missionary candidate.

At present, board employees known as candidate consultants interview missionary candidates and lead them through the appointment process. Other staff members review candidates' files, both independently and with trustee subcommittees. Not until the week of their appointment do candidates routinely meet trustees, however, although trustees are encouraged to make contact with candidates in their states.

The joint committee that reviewed the process presented the board with eight recommendations, the first of which affirms the present process "as an excellent one that continues to grow and improve as circumstances require."

The group's original recommenda-

tions were revised after several trustees said the report did not ensure missionary candidates would be theologically sound.

During discussion, board President Parks told trustees that if they decided to interview candidates personally, they would be sending a message that the board had determined to represent only one political spectrum of Southern Baptists. "Up until this point, I don't know how many letters, how many conversations I have had that have said to me, 'The one thing that is holding us together is our feeling that the Foreign Mission Board is still a mission board for all of us,'" Parks said.

"The conversation we are having here today seems to imply that we are not appointing people who believe the Bible and people who are theologically sound as theological teachers. That's not so. I really have a problem that we seem to be saying we've got some serious theological questions here that need careful attention. I do not believe that."

Parks also warned about marking theological teachers for special scrutiny: "If this board decides we are going to treat any category of missionary in a separate way, we will have made a mistake. I do not want to send anyone who is not biblically sound, whether they teach theology or not."

"And if our present system doesn't send sound people, then the whole system needs changing."

But he added, "I say the evidence on the field is that we're sending sound people biblically, theologically, and evangelistically."

Dilday faces pressure from trustees

By Scott Collins

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The possibility of a called meeting to discuss "political activities" by Russell Dilday was considered by Dilday and trustee officers of Southwestern Seminary in a mid-August meeting.

News reports in several newspapers — including the Richmond (Va.) Times Dispatch and the Nashville Banner indicated trustees may be targeting Dilday, president of the 4,800-student school in Fort Worth, Texas, for "censuring or muzzling" this fall.

Dilday and trustee Chairman Ken Lilly, a physician from Fort Smith, Ark., issued a joint statement Aug. 28, saying the purpose of the Aug. 15 meeting was to "discuss questions regarding Baptists Committed (to the Southern Baptist Convention), and to seek clarification about an article written by Dr. Dilday for the May Southwestern News."

Lilly said the trustee officers discussed the possibility of a called meeting — to be set Aug. 29 — but decided not to do so.

The chairman, however, said he anticipates the issue to be raised when the full board meets Oct. 16-17. "I don't see at this point how it can be avoided" at the full board meeting, Lilly said.

The issue is still hot and it will come up . . . I don't know the best way to deal with it, but I know the guys (trustees) are going to have their say."

In the prepared statement, Lilly and Dilday were critical of news

coverage of the mid-August meeting, saying it "may hurt attempts to reach an understanding" between Dilday and trustees.

They said the meeting gave Dilday and the three officers and opportunity to discuss questions privately rather than through the media.

"We believe it is in the best interest of Southwestern Seminary, its president and board of trustees to talk about these issues privately and face-to-face rather than through public rhetoric," the statement says. Lilly explained the background of the meeting, noting: "The deal was that a number of trustees had written me. I got a bunch of letters requesting that we meet with Dr. Dilday and ask him to quit doing political things."

The focus of the letters, he said, was Dilday's speech in late May before a meeting of Baptists Committed, a moderate political organization.

While Dilday said he believes the source of complaints is an account of his speech in the Southern Baptist Advocate, a conservative-oriented newspaper, Lilly denied the Advocate report prompted the meeting.

"There was only one (trustee) who was influenced by the article," Lilly said. "The article was not the issue, but rather Dr. Dilday's renewed political activity."

Dilday said his address, titled "Denominational Unity," at the Baptist Committed symposium was an attempt to call for Baptist unity and to pull together the fractured Southern Baptist Convention. He said it was not

intended to be a political statement. Dilday said he showed trustees the full text of the speech and "they seemed less concerned."

"I will accept any invitation I can to speak on Baptist unity, whether I'm addressing the left or the right," he added.

He continued: "I would be irresponsible if I didn't speak on convictional issues affecting the seminary and the convention. I don't intend to do anything to make the conflict in the convention worse. I haven't been a part of any political group on either side and I don't intend to be. I have spoken out in the past against the inappropriateness of political actions."

Lilly said, "My personal thinking is that he (Dilday) is going to have some troubled times if he doesn't 'quit speaking out.'"

Of the Aug. 15 meeting, Lilly said: "We were trying to meet privately to solve potential difficulties. I don't think we solved them. The spirit intended was to tell our brother in Christ, Russell Dilday, that he had trustees who didn't agree with what he was doing. The way you do that in our opinion was to go to him personally."

In addition to Dilday and Lilly, the Aug. 15 meeting was attended by Damon Shook, pastor of Champion Forest Baptist Church in Houston, vice chairman, and John McNaughton, a Fort Worth rancher and businessman.

Scott Collins writes for Southwestern Seminary.

Home Board trustees approve reduction of Atlanta staff

ATLANTA (BP) — Faced with an \$8.2 million cut in 1989 expenditures, trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board voted Aug. 9 to eliminate 28 positions from its national staff.

While 15 of the positions are vacant, 13 employees will be affected directly by the reduction. Of those 13, eight will be transferred to other board positions and five have no other assignments.

The 28 positions — 8 percent of the Atlanta staff — were deleted from about 380 positions for staff, national missionaries and national consultants. No field missionaries cooperatively funded with Baptist state conventions are affected, said board President Larry Lewis.

At the March 1989 board meeting, Lewis announced plans to trim the agency's 1989 budget by 9.69 percent, or \$8.2 million, to bring expenditures in line with projected income for 1989 and 1990.

Since that meeting, the Atlanta staff's operating budget has been cut \$5.8 million, and cooperative agreements with state conventions have been trimmed about \$700,000. At the August meeting, Lewis said proposing the staff reduction was a last step in the budget cutting process and "the most painful of all."

Lewis explained that the budget

reduction and subsequent staff cuts are the result of four factors that occurred almost simultaneously to reduce the amount of income available for 1989 and 1990 budgets: gifts to the 1988 Annie Armstrong Offering for home missions were less than projected; a larger percentage of the 1988 budget actually was spent in field work than usual; less funds now are available from prior years' income to supplement 1989 and 1990 budgets; and the board will receive nearly \$1 million less from the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget in calendar year 1990 than in 1989.

Lewis said he felt it was "miraculous" that 28 positions had been cut and only five people did not have a place to go.

The board is deeply concerned about those five and will try to help them find a place of employment, he added. The board's human resources division has been assigned to assist employees who are leaving the board.

Among those affected by the changes was Dale Holloway, national consultant for bivocational ministries. His position will be deleted Jan. 1, 1990. Holloway has been offered work on a contract basis with the extension section and will continue as bivocational pastor of Day Star Baptist Church in Florence, Miss.

BSSB trustees approve internal reorganization

By Linda Lawson

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board approved an internal reorganization and elected five employees to new staff positions, all without opposition, during their semi-annual meeting Aug. 7-9 at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

"The thrust of the reorganization is on product development, marketing, and distribution," President Lloyd Elder told trustees. "The role of the Sunday School Board is to structure itself, establish priorities and allocate resources in such a way that we impact results in local churches."

Creation of an office of marketing and distribution was authorized and Jimmy D. Edwards, 51, was elected vice president. The office will include the present book store division, which operates 62 Baptist Book Stores nationwide, a new marketing division, and a distribution services division.

Named to direct the distribution services division was Andy Dodson, director of the Broadman marketing services division since 1977.

A native of Oklahoma, Dodson, 50, will be responsible for distributing board-produced materials to churches to strengthen relationships between the board and customers by maintaining prompt, efficient delivery systems.

Establishment of a marketing division was approved to carry out marketing, marketing research, sales, advertising, publicity, and promotion functions for all board products and services.

Elder said he hopes to propose a candidate for division director at the February 1990 trustee meeting. "We are committed to filling this post with a highly skilled, well-trained person, probably from outside the board," he said.

Johnnie C. Godwin, director of the

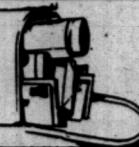
Holman Bible publishing division since 1984, was elected vice president for general publishing, a new office that will oversee all non-curriculum publishing of the board, including Holman, Broadman products, Genevox music, Church Information Systems computer services for churches, and the Baptist Telecommunication Network.

Gary W. Cook, vice president for church program organizations since 1987, was elected to head a restructured office of church programs and services, which will focus on curriculum publishing and other services to churches. Cook will oversee the work of the Sunday School division, church services division and the church training — whose name is changing to discipleship training Oct. 1 — church administration, church music, special ministries, family ministry, and student ministry departments.

Robert M. Turner, a 31-year veteran of the board, was elected assistant vice president for church programs and services. A certified public accountant, Turner will be responsible for budget planning and financial management for the office and continue to direct the church services division, which includes Glorieta and Ridgecrest (N.C.) conference centers and the church recreation, church media library, church architecture, and church programs services art departments.

Elder said the reorganization enables the board to be organized by functions rather than product lines, as at present. Goals in implementing the new structure include maintaining present customers, expanding the business of the board and penetrating new markets, he said.

Lawson writes for BSSB.



Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Preaching in South Africa

Editor:

I have been invited, along with seven other pastors, by the Foreign Mission Board, to accept a special assignment to South Africa. The dates of the trip are September 4 - September 22. The team will be arriving in East London, South Africa below Johannesburg on the 7th of September for a commissioning before we go to our respective places of service. The majority of the team will be preaching in churches in East London. I, however, have received an assignment to travel north of East London to Queenstown and will be spending a week at the Queenstown Baptist Church. The pastor at the Queenstown Baptist Church is Lynton Ressell.

The mood in South Africa is one of discouragement and unrest. Our mission will be to share the gospel with the people in the churches of South Africa and also to be encouragers to the pastors and missionaries there.

Thank you for your prayers as we travel and as we minister in that place.

Randy W. Turner, pastor
Parkway Church
Natchez

Mission in Nicaragua

Editor:

A couple of years ago I wrote asking that the readers would be in prayer for my daughter, Doris Barnard, of Girdwood, Alaska, who, with the help of the Lord and a mere handful of Christians, was at that time attempting to establish a church in that little community as there were not any there.

As I stated before, Girdwood is a ski

resort; and the people really did not want one. You would not believe the stumbling blocks that were put in their way.

Finally, though, through your Christian readers' prayers, and hundreds more, it is with great humility that I want to thank them. Now, with God's help, their church is fully staffed, getting new members, baptizing many, and making quite an impression for Christianity on many who fought against it.

This time I am sincerely asking that your readers be in prayer for my granddaughter, Robyn Barnard. She leaves for a year on a mission in Bluefield, Nicaragua. I would not be so concerned if there was not such turmoil in that part of the country at this time. She is fully aware of those conditions but says that God will take care of her and that she would rather die there doing what he wants her to do than to stay at home and not do it.

Thank you again for the prayers that you sent up before for the success of the one and only church in Girdwood; and I am sure that you will do the same, along with me and my church family, that Robyn will succeed in her work in Central America and will come home safely after the year that she wants to stay.

Helen Williams
Halbert Heights Church
Brookhaven

Order of worship

Editor:

I became pastor of the historic Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson, in January. Like all "new" pastors, I had the unsolicited question, "How am I doing?" playing in my mind.

Last Sunday I picked up an order of worship that may have contained the answer. After the message, invitation,

and benediction there appeared the following title for the postlude: "Sleepers Awake."

My daddy would be proud of me for his favorite place to sleep was in church! Back to the unsolicited question, "How am I doing?"

James W. Street
Jackson

use us wherever we are."

Luther Steve Bullard

Mississippi College, BA 58,
Southeastern Baptist Theological
Seminary BD 63 First Baptist Church,
Ocean Springs, MS (Member)

Need in Colorado

Editor:

In April, of this year, I was privileged to go with a group of Baptists, most of whom were from Mississippi, to Pueblo, Colo., to work in a Sunday School Enrollment Clinic. I was director in the Hyde Park Baptist Church in mostly Hispanic community. The local steel mill, which had provided employment, was practically closed down several years ago; and most of the people in the community are on welfare. In a People Search we found many prospects. In fact, the church has increased in attendance since we were there from the twenties to the forties.

Here is the problem. Only two people have automobiles who come to the church regularly. One of these belongs to the pastor. Hyde Park is a desert area with many people who do not have adequate food to eat. They cannot afford automobiles. The pastor and the other member with a car go many miles each Sunday and Wednesday to pick up members. Since we were there, the main bridge that links Hyde Park to Pueblo has been torn away so that it may be rebuilt. This means 10 extra miles that must be traveled to provide transportation for those on the other side. It will be that way for at least six months.

If the church owned an inexpensive van, it would help in a great way to provide a way for these people to come to church, and the pastor's car would last a lot longer. A number of churches here in Leake Association have already given, along with two churches in Panola Association. Checks are being made to the Freeny Baptist Church, Colorado, Van Fund and mailed to the address below.

Lee Hudson, pastor
Freeny Baptist Church
Rt. 1, Box 65
Carthage, MS 39051

Men needed: work team for Alaska

When Olyn Roberts was pastor at Glacier Valley Baptist Church in Juneau, 1969-71, he never realized this would open up a new ministry for him. As director of missions in Natchez, he has become actively involved in organizing work teams for Alaska.

In 1986, he was part of a team of 16 helping build North Kenai Road Baptist Church. In 1987, he took a crew of 22 to East Third Baptist Church in Anchorage. After the group finished that project, they then did work at Sunset Hills, Immanuel, Inlet View, and Moose Pass. In 1988, Roberts sent four men to Kotzebue for a week, and 13 to Delta Junction Clear Water Mission.

July 24-31, 1989, he made arrangements for a crew of 12 to work a week at Glacier Valley Baptist Church, where he helped from July 24-27. This group at Juneau was made up of men from Natchez, Amory, Florence, and Brandon. The total cost paid by the men and one woman was about \$8,450.00, with a total of 504 man-hours of work accomplished. It was Roberts' first visit to Juneau since leaving December 14, 1971.

On July 27, Roberts rejoined a group of 20 at Kenai First Baptist Church. From July 24-Aug. 3, the group repaired and painted the entire church plus rewiring the phones in the

church and pastorum, shortening 20 pews of North Kenai, plus installing a new window, repainting and extending a porch on Soldotna pastorum. They also did work on the minister of education's home and poured a large sidewalk and did repair work on Soldotna Church and tool shed, and did sheetwork on the pastorum at Seward.

At East Third Native Church, the group cleaned and waxed the hardwood floors in the auditorium, fiberglassed the baptistry floor, installed four fluorescent lights in rooms, put four lights in hallways, laid new carpet in the nursery, and built a new back porch and steps.

Two other young men spent a week on Kodiak doing survey and Bible studies. The approximate cost for food and transportation was \$18,000 with a total of about 1,100 man-hours of work accomplished. This group was made up of people from Natchez, Bruce, Cleveland, and Sturgis, plus one couple from Reidsville, N.C.

Roberts has need of (50) men for four construction projects in the Anchorage area and (22) for Juneau, July 9-21, 1990. The approximate cost per person going to Anchorage will be \$750, which includes round-trip air fare from Jackson to Anchorage, food

and insurance. The Juneau cost will be about \$700. Any man or group of men interested in signing up for these missions trips should contact Olyn Roberts soon at 442-5339, or at 446-5753 (home), mailing address: 139 D'Evereaux Drive, Natchez, MS 39120.

Crusade held in Rio stadium

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (BP) — Two Baptist evangelists led what they called the "largest crusade in the world this year" Aug. 17-19 in the world's largest soccer stadium.

Brazilian Baptist evangelist Nilson Fanini invited Southern Baptist evangelist Bailey Smith to preach the three-day crusade in a stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

Some 15,000 people attended the first two nights of the crusade, Fanini said. About 100,000 attended the final afternoon service, broadcast via satellite to 134 television stations across Brazil.

The crusade was the climax of a week-long outreach effort led by Smith, 153 Southern Baptist volunteers — including 70 pastors — and Brazilian Baptists.

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Thursday, September 14, 1989

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COME HOME

TO CALVARY!

Calvary Baptist Church

1300 West Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39203
James Watkins Street, Pastor

September 17

Come Home to Calvary — In Talent

There will be a 100-voice choir presenting THE MAJESTY AND GLORY in the 10:50 a.m. service.

September 24

Come Home to Calvary — In Commitment

High Attendance Day in Sunday School

Dr. Earl Kelly will be commissioning our missionaries to Japan in the evening service.

Calvary is home to some of Jackson's choicest people. Join us and "Come Home to Calvary" this Sunday.

Pounds to lead key seminar

Jerry Pounds, assistant professor of religious education at The New Orleans Seminary will be the leader for the Key Leader Seminar conducted by the Discipleship Training (Church Training) Department in the Baptist Building in Jackson, Oct. 12.

This seminar, entitled, "How to Put Life in Your Church," will overview the various LIFE Learning System courses available. Pounds was design editor in the Church Training Department in Nashville when LIFE was first developed and has a thorough knowledge of the intent and purpose of these courses. He will lead the participants to walk through most of these ten courses. Participants will have an opportunity to experience some of the activities in each of the courses and be in a better position to choose which of these would be suitable for the people of their churches.

Participants in this Key Leader Seminar may preregister by calling the Discipleship Training Department at 968-3800. The seminar will be conducted in the Sky Room, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and concluding at 3 p.m. Lunch is included along with supplies for the \$10 registration fee.

Lightning strikes Crossgates Church

Lightning struck Crossgates Church, Brandon, Aug. 23, causing an estimated \$7,000 damage to the church's phone, lighting, and alarm system, and to portions of the organ system. The bolt melted a baptistry curtain, but no fire was started, according to Johnny Taylor, building superintendent.

Memorial service held for Donald Winters

A memorial service was held for Donald Winters on July 26 at 2 p.m. at First Church, Hattiesburg. Winters, before retirement had been head of the William Carey School of Music for many years. Born Dec. 2, 1910, he died July 20, 1989.

Tributes to Winters were given by Hugh McElrath of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., on Winters' contribution to Southern Seminary and Southern Baptist music; by Ralph Noonkester of William Carey College on Winters' contribution to Christian higher education; and by Randall Von Kanel, pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg, on Winters' contribution to the lives of individual young people and to the life of his church.

A resolution of appreciation for his life was read, from the Board of Trustees, William Carey. Joe Tuten, retired pastor, Calvary, Jackson, led the invocation; Marjorie Kelly of Jackson, formerly on the staff of William Carey, read the Scripture; Farrell Blankenship, director, Broadcast Services, MBCB, led the eulogy.



Pounds



Europeans honor Merritts

John Merritt and his wife, Elizabeth, were recognized for their 25 years of missionary service in Europe. The recognition came during the July 8-13 summer assembly of the European Baptist Convention. Charles Cottle, left, assistant for European administration in the Europe-area office in Thalwil, Switzerland, presented them their 25-year service pins. Merritt is general secretary of the EBC, a convention with 59 English-language churches serving internationals in Europe which cooperates with the SBC.

Later the same month, Merritt became the first non-European to hold a major office in the European Baptist Federation. The EBF council elected him vice-president of the Federation, which includes 27 member-bodies in 25 countries.

From Mississippi, the Merritts were appointed to Italy by the Foreign Mission Board (SBC) in 1964. In the early 1970s they moved to Germany, where he became executive secretary of the EBC. In 1986 his title was changed to general secretary.

EBF vice-presidents serve a two-year term, after which they become president for another two years.

Devotional

Shepherding the wind

By R. B. Moore

Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and the labor in which I had toiled; and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun (Ecclesiastes 3:11, NKJV).

Though our achievements seem important, upon reflection, they appear like vain attempts to shepherd the wind. The word "vanity" is close to the English word "vanish." Every notable material accomplishment you uphold for all to admire will one day vanish. Without a doubt, all your material gain in life is only temporary. On the other hand, the kind of person you become lasts eternally.

Some years ago, when a wealthy man's wife died, he had a monument of the two of them sitting on a love seat placed in the cemetery. He commissioned the sculptor to carve a second statue. He was so impressed he ordered a third statue. He spent over a quarter of million dollars on these statues.

Even though he was a wealthy man, he was stingy when it came to helping others. He promised not to leave his in-laws a red cent. He refused to donate to community projects needing charitable gifts. In short, he was a miser. He died at the age of 92, a bitter old man. Only a hand full of people attended his funeral. And only one man seemed to grieve — the salesman of the statues!

Here was a once wealthy man who left this earth as an eternally impoverished individual. His achievements will soon vanish, but he lives on forever with his bitter personality. Therefore, the question confronting you is not, "What am I temporarily accomplishing?" But rather, "What kind of a person am I permanently becoming?"

Moore is pastor, Improve, Columbia.



Moore



Book reviews

ALONG THE WAY HOME: Jerry Mixon; Broadman; 126 pages.

The 126 pages of this book contain 39 chapters. It is a collection of stories from the early life of the author. In each he draws a spiritual lesson for the reader. This book is another in Mixon's thoughts of "The Journey Off the Main Road."

Mixon is pastor of First Church, Winona. The foreword was written by Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson. Pollard points out that Mixon "knows what all good communicators know . . . People think in pictures — not in logical, orderly sequence . . ."

The author has painted 39 of these word pictures for the readers. The book is very easy to read. It is presented in a folksy, homey style. Since the chapters are not related and are all very short, the reader can pick

up the book for a few minutes of reading and not lose continuity, or it would be easily read at one sitting.

It presents enjoyable reading. — DTM

Doris W. Greig, Annette Parish, and Herman D. Rosenberger; JESUS OF NAZARETH FAMILY DEVOTIONAL; Ventura; Regal Books; 1988.

This book was developed as a companion to the film Jesus of Nazareth. Thus, it is grouped into various themes. It contains twelve weeks of daily readings on the life of Christ from his birth to his ascension. It is different from most devotional books. It appears to be written more for children than adults although it is called a "Family Devotional."

Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor of Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven.

Housing Request Form Southern Baptist Convention

June 12-14, 1990 — New Orleans, Louisiana

HOUSING FOR ANNUAL MEETING

There has been a difference of opinion in our Convention between those individuals and groups who felt that they should be free to secure their own housing without having to go through the Housing Bureau and those individuals who felt the need for a Bureau so that they could be assured that all of the rooms would not be taken by travel agents or special interest groups. Over the years a compromise has emerged in the housing policy adopted by the Convention.

Under our present Convention housing policy, at least 4,000 rooms are held by the Convention to be used by the city run Housing Bureau. In fact, for the 1990 SBC Annual Meeting, the city of New Orleans is holding 6,450 rooms for the convention. These rooms are for individuals and may only be secured by the use of a form like the one you have in hand.

It is important to remember that the hotels listed on this form may or may not take care of all those who attend the Convention, or possibly even all of those who fill out this form. The 6,450 room total is an attempt to strike a balance between the two views of how the housing should be handled.

HOW IS THE FORM PROCESSED?

When the Housing Request Forms are received by the Greater New Orleans Tourist and Convention Commission, they will be held until October 10, 1989, to be sure that all the housing requests postmarked October 2 have had time to arrive. The forms will then be opened by postmark date. The time of day the forms are mailed is not important. Because October 1 is a Sunday, forms postmarked October 1 and 2 will be treated equally. All forms will be treated individually, even if multiple forms are sent in the same envelope. Duplicate forms for the same individual will not be processed.

WHEN TO MAIL THE FORM

Housing Request Forms postmarked prior to October 1, 1989, will be processed by the Housing Bureau after those postmarked October 2, 1989. History indicates that all the hotels listed on this form may be filled by individuals mailing forms postmarked October 2, 1989.

DO NOT mail your deposit with the housing request form. The hotel will request any required deposits after you have been assigned to a particular hotel.

Forms postmarked after October 2, 1989, will be processed by the Housing Bureau.

Mail forms October 1 or 2.

HOW TO USE THE FORM

One form should be used for each room requested.

PART I — Accurately fill in the requested information.

PART II — From the accompanying list, select six hotels of your choice and place the hotel names in Part II in the order of your preference. The hotel names may be found on page 2 of this form.

PART III — Fill in all information requested for the room you wish to reserve. If you need more than one room, use a second sheet. Photo copies of the form may be used.

PART IV — You may put a limit on the maximum amount you are willing to pay. This will be used by the Bureau only if none of your hotel selections are available. If there are no rooms available below your maximum, your form will be returned to you.

FURTHER INFORMATION

All housing forms are processed by the Greater New Orleans Tourist & Convention Commission. However, if you have a special problem, or if you have need for further information, contact HOUSING INFORMATION, SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce Street, Room 750, Nashville, Tennessee 37203, telephone (615) 244-2355.

HOTEL LIST

	Single	Double
Clarion Hotel	65.00	77.00
Doubletree Hotel	84.00	84.00
Fairmont Hotel	90.00	90.00
Hotel Inter Continental	85.00	85.00
Hyatt Regency	90.00	90.00
Le Pavillion	69.00	69.00
Monteleone	75.00	85.00
New Orleans Hilton	105.00	115.00
New Orleans Marriott	81.00	101.00
Omni Royal Orleans Hotel	85.00	95.00
Royal Sonesta	85.00	85.00
Sheraton New Orleans	89.00	89.00

Notes:

1. The Hyatt Regency will serve as the Convention Hotel.
2. The Pastor's Conference and the Southern Baptist Convention sessions will be held at the Louisiana Superdome.
3. The Woman's Missionary Union meeting will be at the New Orleans Hilton.

Housing request forms sent to state offices

NASHVILLE (BP) — Housing request forms for the 1990 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, scheduled June 11-13 in the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans, have been sent to state executive offices, according to Convention Manager Tim A. Hedquist.

The forms, also available in the September issue of *Baptist Program* magazine, should be mailed to the Greater New Orleans Tourist and

Convention Commission no earlier than Oct. 1, 1989.

"This year there is a day of grace because Oct. 1 falls on a Sunday," Hedquist said. "Many post offices do not postmark mail on Sunday, so any forms postmarked either Oct. 1 or 2 will be treated as if they were postmarked Oct. 1."

He added housing request forms mailed earlier than Oct. 1 will not be processed. Those mailed later also

will not be processed because it is likely the request postmarked either Oct. 1 or 2 will exceed the number of rooms available in the SBC block.

The envelopes will be opened by the New Orleans commission Oct. 10 "in a random manner," Hedquist said. The process uses only people who are not Southern Baptists in an effort to ensure impartiality in assigning rooms.

There are 6,450 rooms in 12 hotels

in the 1990 SBC block. Included among the hotels are the Hyatt Regency, which will be the headquarters hotel, and the New Orleans Hilton, which will house participants of the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting.

"There is a place on the form that allows an individual to set a maximum price," Hedquist said. "If the envelope is opened and there are no rooms available in the price range in-

dicated, the request will be sent back.

He indicated the average cost of a hotel room in New Orleans is about \$86, "down about 10 percent from Las Vegas." Prices in the 12 hotels in the SBC block range from \$65 to \$105 for a single.

All of the hotels are in the downtown area, he said, and in walking distance "for a robust person." All also are in proximity to a New Orleans shuttle service, which will be augmented by the SBC to coincide with sessions of the annual meeting.

The forms also provide an opportunity for a potential messenger to select first-through fifth-choice hotels.

The forms contain complete information on filing. They should be mailed to the SBC Housing Bureau, 1520 Sugarbowl Drive, New Orleans, La. 70112.

Hedquist issued several reminders about registration:

— Registrants may not submit more than one request per person. If they do, the housing bureau computer will cancel all copies of multiple requests by the same individual.

— Multiple registrants may submit individual requests in the same envelope. However, all members of a group are not guaranteed rooms in the same hotel.

— People with handicaps or special medical needs should make their requests to Hedquist at the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce, Nashville, Tenn. 37203, before the Oct. 1 deadline.

"We hold rooms to provide for the handicapped," Hedquist said. "They should not attach notes to the registration forms and send them to the housing bureau. The housing bureau cannot help them, but I can."

He stressed people with special needs should send in their requests as soon as possible, but before Oct. 1.

— People should not attempt to contact the Executive Committee or Hedquist about their room assignments.

Those who do not get rooms in the block will be notified as soon as possible by the Executive Committee, he said. The housing bureau sends the forms that were not assigned rooms to the Executive Committee, which returns them as quickly as possible.

Even if a messenger is not assigned a room in the SBC block, there are plenty of hotel rooms available in New Orleans, Hedquist said.

COM will rally at Edwards

Mississippi Campers on Mission will hold their fall rally Sept. 15-17 at Askew's Landing at Edwards.

Featured will be a catered supper on Friday night, music, testimonies, and several speakers including Fred Robinson, Sid Taylor, Cooper Walton, and Hollis Bryant. Bryant, consultant on the convention board staff, will bring the Sunday morning message.

For early arrivers, on Thursday at 7 p.m. there will be a sing-along and time of sharing. Registration begins at 2 on Saturday and the program concludes at 10 a.m. Sunday. A separate program is planned for children.

To make a reservation for the catered supper, contact Mae Price at Rt. 10, Box 468, Columbus, MS 39702.

Regional rallies are planned for October and November. The northern rally will be at George Payne Cossar State Park at Enid, Oct. 13-15. The southern rally will be at Mazalea Campground at Biloxi, Nov. 10-12. The national rally will be at Lafayette, La., next June.

FOR HOUSING BUREAU USE ONLY

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION JUNE 12-14, 1990—NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA OFFICIAL HOUSING REQUEST FORM

MAIL TO:
SBC HOUSING BUREAU
1520 SUGARBOWL DR.
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
70112

- PLEASE **PRINT OR TYPE** ALL ITEMS TO ASSURE ACCURACY.
- COMPLETE EACH PART BELOW IN DETAIL FOR CORRECT AND RAPID PROCESSING.
- **SHOULD MORE THAN ONE (1) ROOM BE NEEDED, PLEASE USE A SECOND FORM.**
- **ALL CONFIRMATIONS WILL BE SENT TO INDIVIDUAL INDICATED IN PART I.**

PART I INSTRUCTIONS: COMPLETE REQUESTED DATA USING ABBREVIATION AS NECESSARY.

(FIRST NAME)	(LAST)	
(STREET ADDRESS OR P.O. BOX NUMBER)		
(CITY)	(STATE)	(ZIP — U.S.A.)
(Area Code)	(PHONE NUMBER)	

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Names in the news

Mr. and Mrs. David Howell of Magnolia were among the Mississippians who witnessed in the Las Vegas area during the week of the Southern Baptist Convention. They were pictured in the August 10 issue of the *Baptist Record* with a group from Jackson County, but were incorrectly identified as Mr. and Mrs. David Smith. Since that time, Howell reports, he has accepted a Baptist pastorate 70 miles from the mission church they helped in revival and door to door outreach, while in Nevada. They have moved on the field, to 572 E. 300 South, St. George, Utah 84770.

Steven Romano has joined Mississippi Baptist Medical Center as the director of its Baptist Fitness Center. Romano goes to MBMC from Healthcare International, and has nine years of experience working in fitness centers. Two of these years were spent in Brazil doing international work as a joint mission project


Romano
with the Southern Baptist Convention. He attended Louisiana Tech in Ruston and received a masters degree in exercise physiology with an emphasis in sports administration from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Dewey E. Merritt, former Mississippi pastor and missionary was awarded a Doctor of Divinity by Hannibal-LaGrange College at its spring graduation in recognition of his life-long commitment to missions. He was born in Hattiesburg, graduated from Mississippi College, and was pastor at Cowart and Bluff Springs churches while attending New Orleans Seminary. He served 20 years in Nigeria as a missionary of the Foreign Mission Board and for the past six years has worked at the headquarters in Richmond, Va. He presently served as an association director in the volunteer department, having responsibility for short term projects in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East.

Homecomings

Camp Ground (Yalobusha): Sept. 17; services, 11 a.m.; Johnny Parks, former pastor, Kosciusko, guest speaker; lunch served in fellowship hall at noon; singing, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.; Schmitz family, Hopewell Church, guest singers; Charles Fowler, pastor; no night service.

Retired minister dies in Florida

SEBASTIAN, Fla. — Former Mississippian Melva Darnell Morton, 81, a retired Baptist minister, died of cardiopulmonary arrest on Aug. 13 in Carnegie Gardens Nursing Center in Melbourne, Fla.

Burial was Aug. 14 in Fountainhead Memorial Park.

Morton, born in DeKalb, had been pastor of several Mississippi and Kentucky Baptist churches.

He graduated from Mississippi College and from Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Survivors include wife, Hazel; daughters, Dorothy Beatty of Sebastian and Marilyn Joiner of Clinton; two sisters; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



Glendale Church, Leland, honored its pastor, Edward Pendergrast, and his wife, Jean Pendergrast, on their 42nd wedding anniversary. A luncheon was held followed by a reception. Women of the church presented them with a friendship quilt made by church members, and individual monetary love offerings. Special guests were their daughter, Mrs. Frankie Lofton, and son, Brandon, from Calhoun City; their son, Donald, from Ridgeland, and Mrs. Pendergrast's sister, Mrs. Naomi Elder, Batesville. Pendergrast has been pastor at Glendale for 5½ years.

William Milam, a native of Batesville, and considers Indiana his hometown, has been elected to the 1989-90 Student Government Council at Midwestern Seminary.

A student in the master of divinity-correlated degree program, he was elected to the office of vice president-secretary. Currently, Milam serves as pastor of Speedwell Southern Baptist Church in El Dorado Springs, Mo. He and his wife, Nancy, have two children, Bill and Tonya.

William M. Clawson, professor emeritus of Religion at William Carey College, is available for supply or interim preaching in the Hattiesburg area. He retired last year from the Carey faculty where he was professor of religion and chaired the department of biblical studies and church vocations. He may be reached at (601) 264-8756.

South Central Regional Medical Center recently named Drew Blanton to serve as the hospital's full-time chaplain and coordinator of pastoral care.

Blanton, originally from Kosciusko, was pastor of Eastside Church in



Milam

Magee for six years.

In his new position, Blanton will offer support to staff as well as patients and their families and will be available to offer spiritual guidance and counseling in times of crisis and emergency. He will also coordinate the work of volunteer chaplains at SCRMC.

Blanton received a bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College and has completed some graduate work at New Orleans Seminary and the University of Southern Mississippi. He completed clinical pastoral education training at Forrest General Hospital and specialized his pastoral study in emergency medical service.

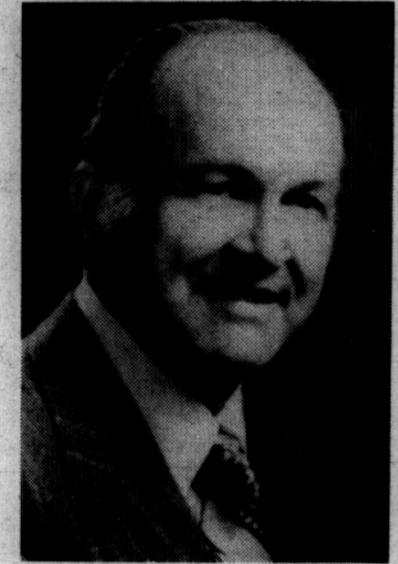
He is a member of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Team and the Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Association and is an affiliate of the College of Chaplains, an organization which sets criteria for chaplain work.

He and his wife, Marilyn, have two children.

Bill Murray spoke at Park Place Church, Brandon, Sept. 10. Murray, the converted son of the atheist leader, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, is the director of Freedom's Friends, a Texas organization helping the victims of Communism worldwide. Bobby Williamson is pastor.

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Just for the Record



Hurley Church, Hurley, broke ground for a new educational building on Sunday, Aug. 5. After many hours spent planning on the part of the Long Range Planning Committee and the building committee, the membership stepped out on faith to add this supplemental space to the church. For some time, there has been a need for this extra room, due to increased growth occurring within the past year. Kenna Byrd is pastor.



Actees of First Church, Tupelo, participated in a recognition service, June 4, using the theme, "Challenges by Candlelight." Participating were, left to right, front row: Allison Newman; Kourtney Smith; Molly Robinson, Queen; Allyson Whitley, Queen; Ashley Wallace, Queen; Elizabeth Bowlin, Queen with Scepter. Those standing on the back row are Doris Lumsden, leader; Katy Wallace, director; Cindy Arnold, Queen with Scepter; Alison Wallace, Queen Regent; Kristen Langford, Queen Regent; Sandi Stacy, leader; and Carolyn Smith, leader.



Pearl Hill Church, Leake Association, had a noteburning service, Aug. 6, celebrating the retirement of a debt that was made in 1987 in order to build additional Sunday School space and to add a baptistry.

Pictured, left to right, are Lacy Perry, Joe Perry, Eddie Pilgrim, pastor, Louie Perry, James Quick, Melvin Malone, Bennie Wade Ingram, and Leroy Adams.



Bethany Church, Prentiss, recently held its GA recognition service. Pictured, receiving badges, front row, are Josie Bridges, Lacy Taylor, Tracy Rogers, Amy Kelly, Julie Smith, and Cindy Witte; back row, Tiffany Ward, Krisi Langston, Megan Miller, Melissa McPhail, Summer Hall, and Leslie Hall.

Mississippi Baptist activities

Sept. 18 "How to Use & Administer BTN in Your Church" Conference; FBC, Oxford; 7-9 p.m. (DBS)

Sept. 19 "How to Use & Administer BTN in Your Church" Conference; Hinds-Madison Assn. Office, Jackson; 7-9 p.m. (DBS)

Sept. 21 "How to Use & Administer BTN in Your Church" Conference; Pike Assn. Office, McComb; 7-9 p.m. (DBS)

Sept. 23 Single Adult Leadership Training; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; FBC, Pascagoula/FBC, Grenada/FBC, Columbia/FBC, Brookhaven/FBC, Newton/Clarksdale BC, Clarksdale/Harrisburg BC, Tupelo/Fairview BC, Columbus/Broadmoor BC, Jackson (Fam. Min.-CT) Small Church Leadership Conference; William Carey College, Hattiesburg; 9:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m. (PD)

Johnny Coggins is associate pastor. Long Range Planning committee members are Gary Jones, Glenn Craft, Diane Gibson, and Freddie Fortenberry. Building committee members are Corky Tigner, Carl Ehlers, Charles Sharp, Mike Bagwell, and Larry Carlisle.

Pictured holding shovels, front row, left to right, are Fortenberry, Craft, Ehlers, and Byrd.

Monroe Baptist Association held a Hymnfest Aug. 14 at First Church, Amory, with associational music director Billy Bowie as choir director. He is minister of music at Meadowood Church, Amory. Guest clinician was William J. Reynolds, professor at Southwestern Seminary.

The Hymnfest attracted 49 to sing in the choir and 200 in the congregation.

Helen Taylor was pianist and James Allen was organist.

Featured was a handbell choir from First Church, Aberdeen.



Earl Ezell, board member from Washington Association, is pictured presenting a check for \$1,000 from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to Jack DeMoney, pastor of Gamari Road Church in Greenville.

Gamari Road Church, averaging 40 in Sunday School, is building an education building and fellowship hall that will be used as a temporary auditorium. The estimated time of occupancy for the 3,640 square feet building is Nov. 1.

On Aug. 26 and 27, the combined youth choirs of First Church, Crystal Springs; First Church, Magee; First Church, Quitman; and Calvary Church, Vicksburg, presented in each of these churches "Who, Me?" a youth musical by Donna Douglas and Andy Stanley. These were among the groups from 10 states that recorded this musical in July at Panama City Beach. The new musical will be released this fall. Ministers of music participating were Wayne Baggett, Quitman; James Beasley, Crystal Springs; Paul Padgett, Magee; and Jerry Peagler, Vicksburg.



Okahola Church, Purvis, celebrated the total debt retirement on its buildings in a noteburning service on Aug. 6. Pictured is the pastor, James Stagg who is holding the note; Bob Graham, building committee chairman, holding the plate; and the chairman of deacons, Dick Hall is setting it on fire.

"The Okahola Church was begun as a mission of Purvis, First Church in 1978 with James Stagg as mission pastor. Homes in the community were utilized as meeting places for worship services until property and a mobile church unit from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board were secured. After two years the church building was constructed and the church was constituted. In 1987 an addition for classrooms and church offices were constructed. The church now has a part time youth director, secretary, and music director," says Doug Benedict, director of missions, Lamar Association. The total membership is 154 with a property value of more than \$175,000.

A Lay Renewal Weekend will be held at Corinth Church, Heidelberg, Sept. 15, 16 and 17. Twenty-five guest speakers from throughout Mississippi will have charge of the 42 hour spiritual renewing weekend. There will be something for everyone from four years and up and a nursery will be provided for 3 and under.

Revival dates

Friendship, Aberdeen: Sept. 17-21, Sunday, "Friend Day" in Sunday School, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Robert C. Pitman, pastor; Kirby Woods, Memphis, evangelist; Fred Blalock, minister of music; Friendship, music; Todd Bowen, pastor.

New Hope, Foxworth: Sept. 24; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; morning worship, 10 a.m.; Billy Williams, former pastor, speaker; 11:30, dinner on the grounds; 6 p.m., Church Training; 7 p.m., David and Mona Deweese, concert of music; Bud Parker, pastor.

First, Houlka: Sept. 17-20; Roy McHenry, pastor, First, Okolona, evangelist; Don Buchanan, minister of music, First, Houlka, music evangelist; Rick Burton, pastor.

Mt. Zion, Florence: Sept. 17-21; services, Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, noon service; Mon.-Fri.; 7:30 p.m.; Alvin Doyle, Puckett, evangelist; Richard and Brenda Sullivan, Flowood, music; Tommy Bufkin, pastor.

North McComb, McComb: Sept. 17-20; C. C. Randall, evangelist; Eugene Price, music; Ken Kirk, pastor; services, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.

White Bluff (Marion): Sept. 17-20; Sunday, 1 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Arthur Shaw, speaker; noon meal; Mon., 7 p.m., Ray Bell, speaker; Tues., 7 p.m., Randy Adkisson, speaker; Wed., 7 p.m. Porter Buckley, speaker; Marvin Graham, pastor.

Mars Hill (Leake): Sept. 21-23; 7 nightly; Ronny Hurlbert, First, Mississippi City, evangelist; Lamar Jolly, pastor.

Rocky Point (Leake): Sept. 24; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Robert Parrish, pastor and speaker; lunch and fellowship to follow.

Spring Hill (Copiah): Sept. 17-20; Sunday services, 11 a.m. followed by the noon meal in fellowship hall; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; John Price, pastor, messages.

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Letters From Carey

No. 7-89

BY JIM EDWARDS
Interim President

"And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I shall look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth." Genesis 9:16

The Promise Of Our Namesake — William Carey

Articles for the next four weeks will be about RAINBOWS. RAINBOWS are the universal symbols of PROMISES and COVENANTS. As a Mississippi Baptist institution, our college (including all faculty, students, staff and trustees) should be expected to fulfill certain promises and covenants related to our namesake — William Carey. As people approach the outer door of the President's Office in Tatum Court on the Hattiesburg campus, they usually notice three things related to William Carey: (1) a portrait of William Carey given by the Student Government Association about 25 years ago, (2) a large Bible open to Isaiah 54:2-3, and (3) a glass-covered printed statement that summarizes the history of Carey's life as one of the greatest Christian missionaries since the Apostle Paul. The statement begins with Carey's famous challenge to all Christians to fulfill their promise to further God's Kingdom on earth:

"Expect Great Things From God, Attempt Great Things for God."

CAREY'S CALL TO EVANGELIZE THE WORLD

William Carey was born on August 17, 1761. His story is one of the most thrilling narratives of the Christian church. It launched a new mission era that spread Christianity around the world. The farm boy from England became a cobbler at age 18 and mended shoes with a Bible, history or geography book propped in front of his bench. His concern for the world was so fervent that he wrote in 1792 his "Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to the Means for the Conversion of the Heathens."

Following a powerful Carey sermon on the "Enquiry" to the Northamptonshire Baptist Association, a mission society was formed with the Cobbler as the first missionary. In William Carey's 41 years in India, he established not fewer than 18 mission stations, set up dozens of schools and one college (Serampore), translated and printed the Bible in 40 Oriental languages and dialects, launched India's first newspaper, and achieved a series of social reforms for which that nation will be forever grateful. Like the Rainbow, William Carey was a symbol sent by God to the people of India as a promise of hope.

The goals and strategies achieved by William Carey left an indelible impact on world missions that continue to be felt today, especially in Southern Baptist life.

Since officially adopting the name of William Carey over three decades ago, our College has on many occasions expected great things from God and attempted great things for Him. Part of the message I have been communicating in previous letters is that the College has also achieved some significant things for God during its history. The primary challenge we now face is determining what our future institutional course and direction will be and how William Carey College can accomplish its unique purpose as a Mississippi Baptist educational institution. It is my view that the keys to our distinctiveness can be found in the ministry and life of our namesake — William Carey, one of Christendom's greatest missionaries. This year we will be focusing on how our institution can fulfill our namesake's promise as a distinctive Christian liberal Arts College.

PROMISES — GOD'S TO US — OURS TO GOD

As you walk through my inner office door, located on the wall to the right is a calendar that a friend from Tennessee gave to me. This calendar was the first thing I hung in the office after I arrived in Mississippi because it has colored pictures of RAINBOWS from all over the world. Many of my relationships in life relate to RAINBOWS, PROMISES, and COVENANTS. My view of people is shaped significantly by what I perceive God has instilled in them in terms of PROMISE, being all that he would have them to be in life. That view has influenced my approach to relationships at William Carey College. Recently, I have challenged our College family to covenant together to help the institution and each person associated with it fulfill the PROMISE that God has in His plan, just as He did with William Carey, our namesake. There are three primary areas of challenge regarding how we can covenant together to fulfill that PROMISE in distinctively Christian ways:

- (1) STUDY more about William Carey (the educator, missionary and scientist)
- (2) SUPPORT more of a missionary emphasis at the College, and
- (3) SERVE more of the needs of our Churches, the College, and the world.

INTELLECTUAL GROWTH — CAREY MISSIONARY LECTURE SERIES

As an educational institution we, like the RAINBOW, must fulfill our promise of stretching intellectual horizons of our students in classrooms, seminars, conferences, and in many other ways. Later this academic year we will begin an annual lecture series that emphasizes the life and ministry of William Carey. Dr. Dorman Laird, Professor of Religion and long-time "student" on William Carey, will direct the series.

Our immediate plans include bringing to our campuses outstanding scholars who are experts in the field of Southern Baptist missions and who are especially knowledgeable about William Carey. To begin our study and preparation for the 1989 lectures, each new student at the College is being provided a copy of a biography on the life of Carey. The biography is also being made available to our Trustees and members of the Denominational Advisory Council at the College. By studying and learning together, the entire Carey family can begin to find the distinctive elements of our mission and programs as a liberal arts college approaching a lost world for Christ in the 21st century.

Future plans will address the potential for establishing a special library collection, more courses that emphasize William Carey and the modern missions movement, and an academic unit that focuses explicitly on Carey and how his ministry can serve as a model for our College to fulfill its promise as an unapologetically Baptist institution.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH — REVIVALS AND MISSIONS

One of the covenants William Carey College needs to keep with our namesake is continued spiritual growth. Growing spiritually has been prevalent at Carey for quite some time. That spiritual growth has been evident in the past and present by our continued emphasis on programs that educate and instigate Christian ideas and ideals of living, and by the commitment and enthusiasm with which our faculty and staff strive to support the integration of faith and scholarly learning by Carey's students at all levels of study. Our plans for strengthening the fulfillment of our spiritual promise during 1989-90 and beyond include three major strategies of emphasis. Each of the strategies can contribute directly to the spiritual growth of each individual and constituent group associated with our College family, and the spiritual advancement of the institution itself.

Fall Revivals

The October Fall Revival at Carey will be led again this year by our students. This program has always enhanced the spiritual dimension of our campus life. The difference in our approach in 1989 is the campus-based revival will be preceded in September by a Trustee and Administrator Prayer Retreat in Laurel led by Dr. David Grant. We will be joined in that retreat by our College's Denominational Advisory Council, co-chaired by Frank Gunn and Charles Pickering, and our State Executive Director-Treasurer Dr. Bill Causey. The prayer retreat will focus on the need for a revival in churches throughout the State and in our Christian educational institutions.

Missions And Missionaries-In-Residence

Summer mission programs at Carey have been life-changing events for many of our students in the past, and have led them to commit to longer-term mission endeavors and full-time Christian service. Many Carey graduates now fulfilling God's promise for their lives began by giving up a vacation period for a summer mission project.

In addition to expanding our support for the 1990 summer missions program, we are starting a Missionary-in-Residence Program. Plans include working cooperatively with local churches, the Foreign and Home Mission Boards, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention to bring Missionaries-in-Residence to our campuses for activities which are designed to stimulate and inspire spiritually the entire College community.

We believe a stronger mission emphasis for all of our students, including those in business, teaching, nursing and health sciences, and other professional programs can be a distinctive way to fulfill the promise of our namesake at William Carey College.

SERVICE GROWTH — CHURCH, COLLEGE, THE WORLD

Another important covenant William Carey College needs to keep is fulfilling our promise for continued service growth. This area of growth will require an ongoing sense of commitment to involvement with the geographical and personal surroundings with which we make contact in our daily walks of faith. Each person's life represents a unique combination of opportunities to interact with a given set of people and institutions. The study of astronomy and science has shown us that within God's universe there are many galaxies; within each of His galaxies there are many systems; within each of His systems there are many masses: planets, stars, nebulous formations, white dwarfs, and meteors.

In our Solar System all planets revolve around the Sun. If a given planet is representative of a given "world," or set of related interactions, then that planet is governed by the gravitational laws of the Sun, who in our lives is representative of Jesus Christ, our personal Savior. Each planet, will likely encounter at some critical point at least one of the following types of masses: nebulous formations, white dwarfs, or meteors.

Nebulous formations in space are much like clouds or steam — they are constantly changing shape without any visually perceivable reasons. They come and go like vapor, evaporating and then reappearing without reference to logical sequence or definitive pattern. In our Christian world nebulous formations represent people who are Christians in absentia. They exist, but they float aimlessly around and seldom have definitive impacts on larger masses because in essence they have little or no substance.

Astronomers refer to stars that once burned brightly but which have now dimmed and cooled considerably as white dwarfs. When a star begins contracting, it loses intensity of heat and illumination. Some Christians are like white dwarfs in their service to God's Kingdom — they are "Used-to-Be's". They once shone brightly like their huge solar counterpart, but they have since dimmed their capacity for illuminating the paths of planets because they prefer to retreat to the less demanding non-existence of black holes.

Meteors represent the William Carey's. When they encounter planets, their mission is to make a permanent impact. Meteors make lasting impressions. In order for us to assume the likeness of meteors, we must commit in unequivocal and distinctive manners — manners exemplified by William Carey — to involvement with the geographical and personal surroundings with which we are in contact to acquire and maintain a status of service growth to our "worlds." Fulfilling our promise for service growth refers to the capacity to positively affect our local churches, our College, and the "ends of the earth."

In the months ahead, I will be proposing some new strategies for encouraging the entire College family to broaden their already significant service commitments to leading, helping, and working in our local churches. Additionally, our students, faculty, and others are being requested to volunteer some service time to support the College in a few small but significant new ways. Finally, we will continue to strengthen and improve our service to the "ends of the earth" by exemplifying daily the Christian standards that set God's children apart; supporting that which needs to be supported and remedying that which is inconsistent with the Christian mission of reaching all people everywhere for Christ. That renewed service growth should remind us of RAINBOWS — covenants kept and promises fulfilled — and of William Carey, whom we proudly claim as our namesake.

P.S. Next week. The promise of our students.

New laws passed and new leader, Joshua, chosen

By R. Raymond Lloyd

Numbers 26:1-16 (27:1a, 4-7, 12-19; 22-23)

The second numbering of the people is recorded in chapter 26 (first numbering — chapter 1). There are significant differences, both increases and decreases by tribes, though the total number of males remains much the same (down from 603,550-601,730 - vs. 51). The most significant difference is that the first census at the beginning of the wilderness wanderings was for military purposes. The latter census, about 38 years later, was both for military and settlement purposes — the larger the tribe, the greater the portion of land.

NEW LAWS (27:1-11). Following the allotment of the land, a specific case study is described, one that has considerable ramifications for our own day. Zelophehad, the father of a family in the tribe of Manasseh had died, leaving no sons, only five daughters. According to the customs of the Ancient Near East they had no legal or social right to claim the family property as their inheritance. Only men could own property. The woman was considered lit-



Lloyd

BIBLE BOOK

tle more than chattel property, and had few rights of her own. With considerable courage this quintet of daughters came to Moses and the other leaders, boldly asking why their father should have no inheritance in the land simply because he had no sons.

The response of Moses is worthy of note. He considered the request valid but because Hebrew law was clear, he needed additional wisdom and consulted the Lord himself for an answer. It is God who decided the rightness of the request (vs. 7), and authorized the passing of the inheritance to the daughters. Verses 8-11 expand the new laws to apply to additional differing circumstances, seemingly to make clear that property remained within the family.

Numerous are the applications for today. God holds all persons, both male and female in the same esteem. Great courage and boldness was demonstrated by the young women. They exercised wisdom in seeking guidance from their spiritual leaders. When confronted by a matter that had no simplistic answer, Moses sought the counsel of God. The body of law was not inflexible, but was changed and amplified by the Lord himself.

In a day when the role of women in the church is receiving considerable attention, the same methodology may well be followed. Let us respect their courage and boldness in seeking equality. Let their attitudes be right and pursue the matter through church leadership. Let the leadership not be bound by tradition and existing legalisms, but seek the counsel of the living Lord. Let all recognize that God holds all, male and female, in equal esteem, and be willing to follow his leadership as he guides in interpreting his word in the light of contemporary circumstances. Remember the Bible was written when women were greatly restricted in their freedom.

NEW LEADER (26:12-23). God permits Moses to view the Promised Land from Abarim, the larger territory of which Mt. Nebo is the specific mountain (cf. Deut. 32:48-50). One of the most moving experiences of this writer's life was to stand at the traditional site and view the snake-like path of the Jordan, the shimmering waters of the Dead Sea, and the mountains of Judah all the way to Jerusalem in the distance. It is breathtaking in its beauty! One could not help wonder what Moses must have thought: of God's mighty miracles of the past 40 years, of the satisfaction of bringing Israel to the threshold of the Promised

Land, and of the heartbreak of not being permitted to enter because of his sin at Meribah, to be done before he died — choose a successor.

One might expect bitterness and resentment on Moses' part, but only a very sweet spirit of genuine concern for his people is manifest as he asks God to appoint his successor. Notice the "go out . . . come in . . . lead out . . . bring in" (vs. 17) verbs to describe this new leader.

It is Joshua who is chosen, one of the two spies bringing a minority report, one "in whom is the spirit." God has already had his hand upon him, equipping him with leadership skills, endowing him with gifts, enabling him to execute God's plan for Israel. Moses is instructed "to lay hands upon him." This is simply a symbolic act of confirmation and affirmation, so that the people would now accept Joshua as their leader, even as the congregation laid hands on the Levites setting them apart for service to the Lord (Num. 8:10-11).

The root idea of ordination is found here, as this passage was used in the ordination of rabbis. The New Testament ideas were no doubt borrowed from them. Thus, Joshua, one of God's special men, is set aside for service to God. God still calls out leaders of his people and equips them for his service. Could you be one?

Lloyd is pastor, First, Starkville.

God, the good shepherd, promises to bless

By Billy R. Williams

Ezekiel 34:17, 20-31

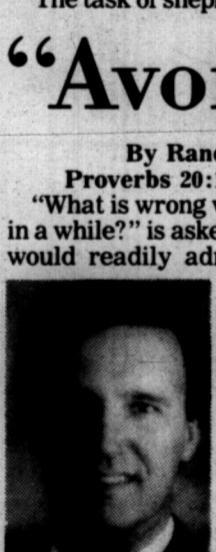
For years Ezekiel had preached messages of judgement to the exiled people in Babylon and to the remnant that remained in Judah. These were messages that called them to face their sins and to repent. Following the destruction of Jerusalem, which was a confirmation of his prophecies, the tone of Ezekiel's sermons changed.

They became primarily messages of hope and encouragement, promising God's forgiveness and his restoration.

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The focal passage for this week delivers such a message, for God is pictured as the Good Shepherd who provides for, protects, and when necessary, purges his flock. In verses 1-16 judgement was pronounced upon the kings of both Judah and Israel, for they had failed in their divinely appointed task of shepherding God's people. These kings had exploited the people, had failed to care for the weak and defenseless members, and had allowed the flock to be scattered over all the earth.

The task of shepherding his people would now



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be taken up by God himself (verses 11-16). As a part of this task, not only had God judged Israel's leaders but he would also judge the bad sheep within the flock as well (verse 17). The phrase "... between the rams and the goats" is not speaking of a separation between sheep and goats as in Matthew 25:31-33, but rather of a distinction between the fat and strong, and the weak and helpless (verse 20). As stronger sheep might shove weaker sheep aside from the graze and the watering place, so the stronger members of Israel had taken advantage of their weaker brethren (verse 21). However, no longer would these weaker members be scattered as easy prey for their enemies. God would purify his flock of the bad members, even as he had purged them of their faithless leaders (verse 22).

Unfortunately even within churches there are those members whose only concern is their own welfare. Like the strong sheep who overgraze the grass and muddy the water for the weaker sheep (verse 18), they use the church and its resources for their own selfish interests without regard to the needs of others. If God judged the "bad sheep" of Ezekiel's day,

He most certainly will judge this kind of conduct!

There was good news for Israel for God promised a better day. The reversal of Israel's condition would be accomplished by God's appointment of a Shepherd who would act as his regent (verse 23). This shepherd was called "... my servant David." However, that statement did not mean that King David was to be resurrected from the grave. It meant one in the likeness of David — a descendant of David. This prophecy could have been partially fulfilled in Zerubbabel, a descendant of David (Luke 3:27) and a leader of the people following their return (Ezra 3:2). However, the only satisfactory answer is to see this as a messianic passage which refers to David's greatest descendant — Jesus Christ.

God gave several startling promises to Israel. First, there was the promise of the reuniting of the people (verse 23). No longer would they be a divided kingdom but one nation under their Shepherd King. Second, there would be a renewed covenant (verse 25). The people's sins had broken the covenant, but God's grace and forgiveness would restore that covenant. Third, there would be a return to the land as indicated by the phrase "... the places round about my hill," meaning Mt. Zion and the surrounding countryside.

As they returned to the Promised Land they would dwell in security — safe from the wild beasts (verse 25) and their enemies (verse 28). The land would become fertile again, for God would send abundant rainfall (verse 26) assuring plentiful crops (verse 27).

These promises were for the future — but how long in the future? In a sense, these promises were partially fulfilled in the return of Israel from Babylon. There is also a sense in which these promises are fulfilled spiritually in the relationship that a believer has with the Lord Jesus. The complete fulfillment of these promises, however, awaits the return of Christ.

There was a fourth promise to the exiles — a promise of the restored relationship between God and his people. Even in judgement they were yet his people. However, their sins had destroyed their confidence of being God's people. As God moved in their lives through his Shepherd king — blessing, restoring, renewing — they would regain that confidence. They would know that "... the house of Israel" was his people.

What greater source of strengthening and comfort in times of trial for the believer than the knowledge that he belongs to the Lord and in all things the great God of heaven will work for his good (Romans 8:28)?

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"Avoid alcoholic beverages" — a call to be wise

By Randall L. Von Kanel

Proverbs 20:1; 21:17; 23:19-21, 29-35

"What is wrong with a little drink every once in a while?" is asked by many people today who would readily admit to the evils of alcohol abuse.

In a day when alcohol carries the notorious status of being America's number one drug problem, society is confronted with the essential question of "Is the consumption of alcoholic beverages wrong at any level?"

The pragmatic stance of this writer is that the use of alcoholic beverages is physically, morally, socially, and spiritually destructive to life. The biblical position is nonetheless direct in a call to avoid the plagues and pitfalls of alcohol.

Several statistics are helpful in approaching this biblical lesson on the subject of drinking. Studies show that "alcohol is the most abused drug in the United States." The College of American Pathologists has claimed that "90 percent of fatal auto accidents involve alcohol." Alcohol use is related to 69 percent of all drowning and 70 percent of all deaths resulting from falls.

Alcohol, a central nervous system depres-

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sant, is addictive, leading to a dependency that is detrimental to the mental and physical well-being of the consumer. Alcoholism is responsible for "an economic loss in the U.S. of at least 20 billion dollars a year." One in four families in our country is affected by the fall-out of an alcoholic member.

In spite of the devastation and heartache caused by this drug, its place in our society is not only tolerated, but promoted. The Christian community must speak out loud and clear in calling for abstinence. Our lesson from the Proverbs reveals the wisdom of avoiding alcoholic beverages.

I. A Call to Be Wise

Our lesson begins with an admonition to avoid the deception of "wine" and "strong drink." In Proverbs 20:1 and 23:19-20, wisdom is found in avoiding a life given to the intake of intoxicating drink. According to Tate (BBC), the phrase, "is not wise" in verse 1, would be better translated, "cannot act wisely." In 23:19, the young man is encouraged to "be wise" by not participating in the lifestyle of the "winebibbers." Consuming alcoholic beverages is unwise, because the alcohol hinders us from acting wisely.

Acting as a depressant, alcohol leads to

lowered concentration, poorer judgment, and reduced self-control. Our world needs to "wise up" to the advertisements that equate the good life to living with a beer can in the hand. I am reminded of Adrian Rogers' story concerning beer advertisements. He said that in response to a certain billboard in his city promoting alcoholic beverages, his church erected a sign. With a picture of a man in the gutter, down in a drunken stupor, the caption read, "The final product of the brewer's art!" The wise person will "just say no" to the drug of alcohol.

II. The Folly of Using Alcoholic Beverages

In our jet-set world of big money and fast lifestyles, alcohol is touted as a "mixed-drink." In other words, drinking alcoholic beverages accompanies the lifestyle of the "rich and famous." The proverbist argues for a different scenario. In Proverbs 21:17, the one who "loves wine and oil" will not be rich. Many have seen their life's fortunes pass away because of the abuse of alcohol. In 23:21, the writer noted that "the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty." Clearly, there is a warning to avoid alcoholic beverages. The folly of drinking lies in the waste of what one has worked for and acquired.

III. The Consequences of Using Alcoholic Beverages

For the Christian, the lifestyle of the "winebibber" is contrary to the walk of

holiness. In Proverbs 23:29-35, the writer paints a vivid picture of the ugliness and shame of the life ruined by alcohol. Verses 29-30 show the aftermath of a drinking binge. The description is recognizable easily as that of a drunken person. Verses 31-35 amplify the plight of those who are caught in the vicious circle of addiction. How tragic are the words, "I will seek it yet again" (v. 35b). When we consider the possibility of being caught in the tentacles of alcoholism, wisdom will lead us to abstain.

In considering the question of drinking, the biblical record presents the wisdom of abstinence. Alcohol is a dangerous drug packaged in the deceptive guise of a "cool, refreshing drink." Someone once asked me why I stood against the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

I gave three reasons: (1) It is unwise to drink; God's Word warns us; (2) It is dangerous to drink; drinking kills; drinking is addictive (either you or someone who models you might be susceptible to alcoholism); and (3) if I don't stand against it, particularly as a Christian, then my silence may lead someone to assume that the use of beverage alcohol is an accepted norm. Christians should provide a voice in society that gives people an opportunity to "say no" to the deadly menace of alcoholic beverages.

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